

HISTORICAL NOTES COVERING MANY TITLES

(As sent into us by Frank H. Norton, CHS; Gleaned from the Billboard,
etc".)

The greatest combined circus performances in history were when the united engagements of Barnum & Bailey and Adam Forepaugh Shows, were in Madison Square Gardens, N.Y. and in Philadelphia, Pa., in 1877. There were 60 bulls in the bull line.

W. C. Coup was the first to use the "King pole" on the Barnum show in 1872.

Forepaugh-Sells night parade in Philadelphia - April 16th, 1904, was one of the finest and grandest events seen in that city in many years.

Barnum once said "The Clowns are pegs on which to hang the circus".

J. C. Stoddard built the first steam calliope in 1855 in Worcester, Mass. First one to use one was the Worcester & Nashua R.R. in 1856. Kemp & Nixon Circus was the first show to use one in 1858.

Cooper & Bailey and W. W. Cole Shows were the first to use Electric Lights - season 1879.

Howe & Cushing Circus was the first to give an "after performance".

On April 18th, 1906, as the Van Amburgh Show train was en route between Sparta and McMinnville, Ga., a stock car caught fire from a hot box and several animals were burnt.

On April 28th, 1906, John Robinson Circus opened its 84th season at Lancaster, Ohio.

Pawnee Bill Wild West Show opened at Canton, O., on April 28th, 1906.

On October 25th, 1906 - the 3rd section of the Hagenbeck Circus train was wrecked at Tiger Creek, Ark., 11 miles from Hot Springs. Two stands lost.

Al. F. Wheeler New Model Shows closed a 26-week-season at Rising Sun, Md., November 1st 1906. Winter quartered at Oxford, Pa.

Fred. Hodgson (whose wife is now a member of CHS) was manager of the Hagenbeck Show in Mexico.

Campbell Bros., Shows opened at Fairbury, Neb., April 28th, 1906 and closed at Mansfield, La., November 23rd. Covering 16,300 miles: it was a 27 car outfit.

The first American Circus to cross the Atlantic Ocean was taken to England by Seth B. Howes in 1857. He also brought the first European Circus to this country (U.S.A.) in 1863.

Haight & Chambers, for season 1863, was the first circus to travel exclusively by steamboat.

Forepaugh was the first to use separate tents for the menagerie and circus performance in addition to the other tents.

Two rings were first used by Geo. DeHaven, who also originated the reserve seats with backs and foot rails.

W.W. Cole Circus was the first to exhibit American Indians, the Electric Lights and talking Machine in Australia. This was in season 1880-81.

Yankee Robinson Circus was the first circus to travel on canal by special boats.

The longest continuous circus tour was made in 1880-81 by the W.W. Cole Circus. Covering Australia, New Zealand, South Sea Islands and 2 trips across the continent, making 305 stands in 431 days, travelling 44,172 miles - with 56 days at sea.

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